



## Partners Providing Services at the FJC

- Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Police Department / Family Justice Division
  - Crimes Against Children Unit
  - Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
  - MA Human Trafficking Task Force
- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County
  - The CAC's On-site Partners:
    - The Child Witness to Violence Project of Boston Medical Center
    - MA Department of Social Services
    - MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
    - MA Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (PediSANE)
    - The Trauma Center at JRI
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Dress for Success Boston
- Finex House / Kim's Project
- Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project
- GLBT DV Attorney Program
- Link Up Education Network / Noah's Ark Foster Care Program
- MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
- MA Department of Transitional Assistance DV Unit
- The Network/ La Red
- Suffolk County DA's Office / Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit

## Family Justice Center of Boston

Open for service  
**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00 am –5:00 pm**

Individual FJC Partner hours vary.

**989 Commonwealth Ave.**  
**Boston MA 02215**

**617 779-2100**

[www.cityofboston.gov/fjc](http://www.cityofboston.gov/fjc)  
email: [fjc@cityofboston.gov](mailto:fjc@cityofboston.gov)

## Talking to Kids Forensic Interviewers Know How to Listen

Angela needed to talk with someone about her daughter. Christine had been sexually assaulted but made her mother promise that she wouldn't tell anyone. One day, Angela decided that she couldn't keep that promise any longer.

When she arrived at the Family Justice Center (FJC), Angela wasn't sure what to expect. She hoped to at least find someone who spoke Spanish. Emily Rivera-Nuñez was the first FJC Partner to respond to Angela's needs. "At the point that she came here she was feeling so vulnerable," Emily recalls. "She was looking for someone to listen to her and to understand that she was in crisis. She couldn't tell her kids how much this was affecting her. I sat with her for a good hour."

Emily is a forensic interviewer for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County, a partner organization located at the Family Justice Center of Boston. A friend had told Angela about the CAC, which coordinates investigations of child abuse and provides support to families when concerns of abuse arise. After speaking with Angela, Emily filed a 51A—a report of suspected abuse or neglect with the MA Department of Social Services (DSS)—and sug-



**Emily Rivera-Nuñez**

Sexual Assault Intervention Network Coordinator and Forensic Interviewer, Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County

gested that Angela bring Christine in for an interview to find out more about what happened.

For Angela, the services that she and her daughter received at the Children's Advocacy Center made a big difference. "I thank God that I came here," she told Emily afterwards.

Allegations of child abuse set a whole series of events—and many people—into motion. Police detectives, prosecutors, DSS social workers, sexual assault nurse examiners, mental health providers and others all have a role to play in ensuring a child's safety and well-being, determining what occurred and seeing that justice is served. Multidisciplinary forensic inter-

views bring all of these parties together, as a team, to listen to what the child has to say. Trained interviewers like Emily specialize in helping young children and adolescents talk about their experiences in their own way and in their own time.

Before talking with Christine, Emily explained to her and to her mom that just Emily and Christine would be in the room during the interview. She also let Christine know that their conversation would be video recorded to minimize the number of times that she would have to talk to different professionals. Emily explained who would be sitting in the observation room on the other

## Domestic Violence Hotlines Expand Services

Domestic violence advocates who answer hotline calls are often the first to hear a survivor's story—and the first to help that person find the support that s/he needs. In communities that have access to them—24 hours a day, 365 days a year—hotlines can help save lives. The Family Justice Center of Boston celebrates the recent expansion of domestic violence hotline services by two FJC Partner organizations: Casa Myrna Vazquez and the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project

**Casa Myrna Vazquez**  
**SafeLink: 1-877-785-2020**  
 (TTY 1-877-521-2601)

Casa Myrna Vazquez operates SafeLink, the Massachusetts statewide domestic violence hotline. Every SafeLink caller speaks to a trained advocate who provides non-judgmental support, assistance with safety planning and appropriate resources. Currently, 75% of staff members are bilingual in Spanish and English.

On October 2, Casa Myrna announced the addition of Portuguese-speaking advocates to the SafeLink team.

According to the MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (another FJC Partner organization), Portu-

guese speakers are the second largest linguistic group in the state, comprising an estimated 800,000 to 1 million people. Of those, about 200,000 live in the greater Boston area alone.

Through workshops, presentations and outreach to organizations that serve Portuguese-speaking communities, SafeLink will continue its work to ensure that no one living with the effects of domestic violence is unable to find help due to language barriers. In addition to their own tri-lingual capacities, SafeLink advocates have access to translation services in over 140 languages.

## Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project: 1-800-832-1901

The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) has been a pioneer in DV advocacy and education since it was founded in Massachusetts in 1994. Now, GMDVP will expand its hotline services to both Connecticut and Rhode Island with the help of a \$75,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation. Executive Director Curt Rogers said, "The Verizon grant is

## New FJC Partner Sees Advocacy Role for Police

We welcome Captain Genevieve M. King of the Boston Police Department (BPD) as the newest member of the FJC community.

On October 13, Capt. King assumed command of the BPD's Family Justice Division. The division's leadership and three of its four units—Domestic Violence, Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking—are based at the FJC.

Of her 22 years as a police officer, Capt. King feels that the years she spent working with the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Units were the most fulfilling. "Advocating for victims has always been the greatest self-satisfaction for me," she says. Leadership of the FJC-based division offers Capt. King an opportunity to return to this passion in a new way.

After spending some time getting to know the FJC and meeting some of our other on-site partners, Capt. King added: "I'm very impressed. I couldn't have asked for anything better."



*Captain Genevieve M. King*

**"Advocating  
for victims  
has always been  
the greatest  
self-satisfaction  
for me."**

**Contact Capt. King  
at the FJC  
617 343-4568  
[KingG.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us](mailto:KingG.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us)**

significant for several reasons. It expands a model program into other states, and it provides a lifeline to gay, bisexual and transgender male victims currently without access to services. It also exhibits leadership to other corporate foundations who traditionally have not funded GLBT domestic violence issues."

Rogers explained that "1 in 4 gay men experience domestic violence. That statistic, coupled with the dearth of services for gay victims of domestic violence, underscores the importance of this donation by the Verizon Foundation."

## Talking to Kids

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side of the two-way mirror and why it was important that each of those team members be there to listen. Emily then led Christine into a room full of colorful artwork and offered her a comfortable chair. She started the interview by asking Christine about her life and took the time to listen carefully.

By getting to know and establishing rapport with the children and adolescents with whom she works, Emily builds trust and helps them become more comfortable sharing their experiences. The rapport building also helps Emily become more familiar with how a child communicates.

Her ability to communicate well with young people was what initially got Emily involved in forensic interviewing. Years ago, as a victim witness advocate for the Hampton County District Attorney's Office, she was preparing two little girls for an appearance in court when she caught the attention of their interviewer. "He said that he noticed the level of compassion that I had with the girls," she recalls. "Not that I had all the answers, but my ability to get on their level with them, and not seem like an adult who was telling them what to do. He basically recruited me...that was in 2000 and I have been interviewing ever since."

Once Emily felt that she and Christine had found a way to talk with one another, she started to ask her some general, open-ended questions related to Christine's visit to the CAC. Emily chose both the wording and the order of

her questions very carefully to ensure that she was never leading the conversation or introducing any new idea that Christine had not already volunteered.

The format that a forensic interviewer typically uses involves moving from general to more specific questions and then back to general. Leading questions are not used. "We would never start

the child and more useful for everyone involved, talking about physical and sexual abuse is never easy. Elizabeth Schon-Vainer serves as the CAC's Family Advocate, and brings over 20 years of experience as an interviewer and investigative team member to her work with children and families. "It's not uncommon for kids to seem nervous when we are in the interview

the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office available to conduct forensic interviews with children.

The CAC's other services include: crisis intervention, information and referrals, forensic medical exams, trauma evaluation and counseling, and victim support and advocacy for children, adolescents, and their families. During their visit, a child and family have the opportunity to meet with each of these professionals; with the goal of meeting as many of a family's needs as possible, CAC staff members also take advantage of the other services available on-site at the Family Justice Center.

When asked what motivates them to come to work every day, Emily and Elizabeth talk about the character of the children and adolescents they encounter. "The best part of my job is talking to kids," Emily states simply. "You see so many wonderful, amazing kids, and you see how resilient they are, even though they have had really difficult things happen."

"Their abuse is often only one part of their life," Elizabeth explains. One young victim she interviewed said "that she wanted to collect stuffed animals to bring to children in the hospital...she was an amazing little girl, the absolute definition of resilience and strength."

**"We tell them, 'You can tell us anything, there is nothing you can say that would upset me. There is nothing you can say that I can't hear.'"**

an interview by saying "Did so-and-so touch you?" Emily explains. The idea, she says, is "to leave doors open." This approach is designed to empower children to talk about their experiences in their own way and the result is a clinically and legally-sound interview that best documents the child's experience in their own words.

As they speak with a child, it is also important for an interviewer to gather information that will help each of the team members do his or her job as well as possible. For police detectives, this could mean asking questions about the scene of an incident that will allow them to obtain a search warrant. This could, in turn, lead them to physical evidence which could help back up a child's statements, if the case is brought to court.

While a skilled interviewer can help make an investigation less stressful for

room with them...we tell them "You can tell us anything, there is nothing you can say that would upset me. There is nothing you can say that I can't hear," she says.

In addition to legal evidence, interviews can provide important information about a child's ongoing safety and wellbeing—if their needs are being met, if they have been told not to talk about what happened and other concerns.

For most of the families served by the CAC, responding to suspected abuse is just one of many challenges. "Poverty, homelessness, domestic violence or a divorce," may also be involved, Emily explains. "So there are a lot of different things surrounding a physical or sexual abuse allegation. It doesn't come separate from everything else."

In addition to Emily and Elizabeth, the CAC is fortunate to have Jackie Lamont of

**The Children's  
Advocacy Center  
of Suffolk County**

at the  
**Family Justice Center  
of Boston**

**617 779-2146**

[www.mass.gov/da/suffolk/cac.html](http://www.mass.gov/da/suffolk/cac.html)



## Events/Opportunities/Resources

### Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) Groups and Workshops

#### Time Limited Group for Female Survivors of Sexual Abuse

This group focuses on the common reactions and feelings that result from sexual violence, as well as how to cope with these feelings. This is a 12 week group, 1½ hours a week. It will be made up of 5-10 women with a wide range of sexual trauma experiences (including rape, sexual assault, stalking, incest, child sexual abuse, and sexual harassment).

#### Parents of Survivors Workshop

This time-limited workshop is for parents of children (of all ages, including adolescent and adult children) who have experienced rape, sexual assault, or child sexual abuse—whether as children or adults.

#### Trauma Information and Education Group

This group provides understanding and healing through education and sharing. It is a group for women who want to understand trauma as well as talk and share the effects of their trauma and how it continues to impact their lives today.

A place to understand how survivors react, adjust, and adapt to their traumas.

For more information or to schedule an intake, please contact Stacy or Meredith at BARCC at 617-492-8306.

### Healing the Heart, Healing the Body, Yoga



Sexual assault affects the body and the mind. The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center invites you to join us for a free 8 week yoga group that includes an educational segment and 6 yoga sessions. All experience levels are welcome and equipment is provided.

Wednesdays from 5:45pm – 6:45 pm  
Please contact Vanessa at BARCC at  
( 617 ) 492-8306 for more information.

### Combating Human Trafficking In Massachusetts

Presented by  
the MA Human Trafficking Task Force  
in partnership with Northeastern  
University

Participants will include law enforcement, prosecutors,  
victim advocates, community based and  
non-governmental organizations.

Thursday, November 8, 2007  
8:30-4:30

Northeastern University  
Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan Center  
120 Forsyth Street  
Boston, MA 02115

Registration is free, please contact:  
Rose Pina  
RCPI-NE  
Northeastern University  
617.373.7098 r.pina@neu.edu

### Save the Date

Kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month and join the  
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center's

**Walk for Change!**  
**3rd Annual Benefit Walk**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Walk for a friend, for someone in your family, for yourself, for all who are affected by sexual violence. The event will raise community awareness about sexual violence in addition to generating much-needed funds to support BARCC's free services. Help change the odds – your support makes all the difference.

**Registration is open now!** To register online and to set up your own fundraising page, please go to [www.firstgiving.com/barcc](http://www.firstgiving.com/barcc). You can also go to the BARCC webpage ([www.barcc.org](http://www.barcc.org)), click on 'Events' and print out registration forms, or call BARCC for more information: 617 492-8306.

Thank you for your support!

## Events/Opportunities/Resources

A Training Presented by:



and



*Anthony Tombs, BA & Jesse Howes, M.ED ,  
The Childrens Recovery Trauma Foundation  
Audrey Morrissey & Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LICSW, MPH  
The My Life, My Choice Project*

### Trauma-Informed Treatment with Sexually Exploited Adolescent Girls: A Training for Youth Serving Providers

**Participants will have the opportunity to:**

- Increase their understanding of the physiological, psychological, and spiritual impact of the trauma of sexual exploitation .
- Learn and collectively develop concrete strategies and skills to augment a healthy recovery, grounded in trauma theory.
- Critically examine their individual identity when working with this population and develop self-care plans to support their effectiveness.

**December 12, 2007**

**9:00am-5:00pm**

**At The Family Justice Center of Boston  
989 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston MA 02215**

**Please register with Tara Borawski\***

**Phone: 617-927-0632**

**Fax: 617-428-0441**

**[tborawski@thehome.org](mailto:tborawski@thehome.org)**

**This training is provided at no cost to participants.  
CEUs will be provided to social workers.**

**\* Please Note:** Completion of "Dispelling Myths & Stereotypes", a workshop offered by The My Life My Choice Project, is a pre-requisite for participation in this training. You may contact Tara Borawski at The Home for Little Wanderers for more information.

### Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County

#### Seminar Series

### Cyberethics: Thoughts on Civilizing Cyberspace

**David B. Whittier, Ed.D.**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Program in Educational Media & Technology, Director, IMC, School of Education, Boston University

This talk will focus on some of the characteristics of the internet and other technology facilitated communications that present new challenges to developing ethical behavior. For example, contemporary web-based resources such as MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube offer tremendous new opportunities for creativity and communication but lack traditional social clues on what is appropriate. This talk will describe a manageable set of ethical behaviors matched to the challenges of cyberspace that may be used to focus efforts at making it more civilized.

**Thursday November 8, 2007**

**9:30am-11am**

**Northeastern University**

**360 Huntington Avenue**

**Curry Center: Rooms 442,444 & 448**

Take the Green Line to Northeastern or the Orange Line to Ruggles. Parking is available at the Renaissance Park garage, 788 Columbus Avenue

**For additional information: Contact the  
Children's Advocacy Center at 617.779.2146  
or [cac@suf.state.ma.us](mailto:cac@suf.state.ma.us)**

Co-sponsored by center for Community Health, Education, Research, and Services (CCHERS)

**The CAC Seminar Series is offered free of charge and no pre-registration is required.**



## Mission

**The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston fosters collaboration in service to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.**

We provide a safe and welcoming environment where individuals and families benefit from the availability of services offered by diverse nonprofit and governmental partner organizations. We are committed to complimenting and enhancing the health of victim service organizations throughout Boston. As a hub of cooperative activity, the FJC facilitates continuous learning and serves as a resource center for professional development. We strive to coordinate violence intervention and prevention services that are culturally responsive and accessible to all victims.

## Vision

**The Family Justice Center of Boston envisions justice for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.**

**Justice for victims will mean that:**

Police, prosecutors and service providers collaborate closely and offer coordinated responses which minimize additional trauma and promote the safety, dignity, well-being and rights of all.

Law enforcement and criminal justice practices reflect a deep understanding of the dynamics of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Useful information about available services and support reaches everyone who needs it.

Governmental and community-based organizations are culturally responsive; provide appropriate, accessible and equitable services to all who need them; and are accountable to the communities that they serve.

There are no gaps in service or “cracks in the system”.

Victims are respected and are never blamed for the violence and abuse.

Child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are not socially tolerated.

**Rates of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are reduced until we are able to stop these crimes entirely.**

## Leadership

**The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston is a program of the Boston Public Health Commission.** An initiative of Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, the FJC is also supported by The Family Justice Center of Boston, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## Services Now Available

### Advocacy and Counseling

for Survivors of Domestic Violence  
and Sexual Assault

Advocates and counselors can talk with you about your experiences, help you explore your options, identify support services, consider whether or not you want to seek help from the police and /or District Attorney's Office and find ways to keep yourself and your children safe.

### Boston Police Department/ Family Justice Division

Police detectives investigate reported crimes involving domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault. Police Advocates are available on-site to make referrals, to explain police procedures, and to provide safety planning, with or without a report to the police.

### Children's and Youth Services

Staff from the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County and its partner agencies can help with crisis intervention, information and referrals, forensic interviews and specialized medical exams, trauma evaluation and counseling, and victim support and advocacy for children, teens and their families.

### Civil Legal Assistance

for Survivors of Domestic Violence  
and Sexual Assault

An attorney can provide legal assistance and/or referrals to help with restraining orders, family law (custody, visitation, child and spousal support, divorce and paternity), housing, education, privacy, employment, welfare advice and immigration issues.

### Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Prosecutors are available to talk with you about court cases. Victim Witness Advocates can answer questions about the criminal justice process, restraining orders, victim rights information, safety planning and referrals to community resources.

### Other Supportive Services

Dress for Success Boston  
FJC Child Care Service  
MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance  
Noah's Ark Foster Care Program

## FJC Staff Directory

To speak with an  
FJC Partner organization  
or for general information,  
please call the main number:  
(617) 779-2100.

**Ellena Haile** and **Verlana Morales**, our  
**Reception Staff**, will be glad to help you.

For information about the FJC's child  
care service, please contact:

**Nancy Reyes, Child Care Specialist**  
(617) 779-2143  
nancy.reyes@cityofboston.gov

For inquiries related to charitable  
donations, outreach, communications,  
use of the FJC facility or volunteer /  
internship opportunities, and for general  
information, please contact:

**Richard Amory,**  
**Assistant Development Director**  
(617) 779-2152  
richard.amory@cityofboston.gov

To inquire about potential partnerships  
and other opportunities for collaboration,  
please contact:

**Susan Goldfarb, Interim Director**  
(617) 779-2149  
susan.goldfarb@state.ma.us

## Visit the FJC

The FJC is located near the intersection of  
Commonwealth Ave. and Babcock St., one  
block west of BU's Agganis Arena and next  
door to the MATCH School.

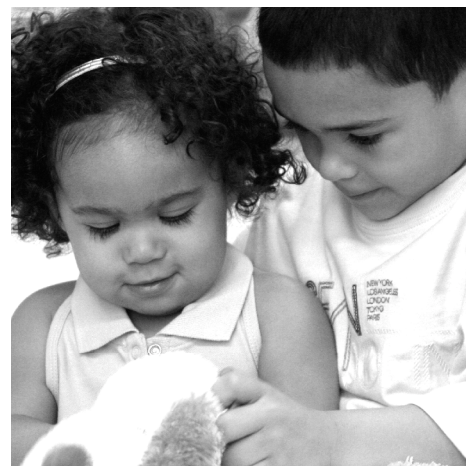
**Parking:** Metered parking is available on the  
street. Ask about special parking for victims  
at the front desk.

**By the "T":** Take the Green Line "B" train  
(Boston College) to the Pleasant St. or the  
Babcock St. stop; both are less than one  
block from the FJC.

**On the MBTA Bus:** Take any of the follow-  
ing bus routes to Kenmore Square: 8, 57, 60,  
65, 8A. At Kenmore, take the outbound "B"  
train (see T directions above) or take the 57  
Bus towards Watertown Yard. Get off at the  
Brighton Ave. and Commonwealth Ave. stop  
(by Shaw's). Walk a few blocks east, toward  
Downtown Boston.

**Childcare is provided  
during your visit.**

**All services are offered  
free of charge.**



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